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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Austria

DATE DISTR. 21 Oct. 1949

SUBJECT Reaction of Members of the Communist
Party to Possibility of Expulsion

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. At a conference held in Linz-Urfahr on 30 July 1949, the district leaders of the Communist Party of Austria discussed almost exclusively the question of ousting members from the Communist Party. The leaders stated that the reaction to this possibility of expulsion was considerable among members who lived in the country; they were afraid to take over functions or publicly to admit their Communist affiliations. Furthermore, the Church or the People's Party was encouraging talk that Communists should be prevented from entering the churches, and this suggestion was exerting a great influence upon the women.

2. Haider, the Land leader, stressed repeatedly that every Communist derives more from his political faith than from his religion. He asked that this philosophy be explained to the members of the Party and also to point out to them that the Church is an opponent of the working class.

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